

# The FLASH 30



**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
AUSTIN HEALEY SPORTS AND TOURING CLUB**

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# Austin Healey Sports and Touring Club

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Cover:

*Jason Urban's Alfa and Mike Bartell's 100-4 at Lime Rock Park.*

# RAMBLINGS

By Nigel Smart



November is just about upon us and the first frost is starting to hit our homestead here in West Chester, PA. It's that time of the year when I annually remind you all to get the car or cars ready for their winter hibernation. I'll be going through that chore myself this weekend if it keeps fine.

It's always good to change the anti-freeze, check the brake fluid (bleeding if necessary), and change the oil. Personally I like to add engine restore to my oil just for extra protection against cold start damage. Yes, I do start the cars up regularly throughout the winter months! Leather and vinyl care is also on my list, as the cold does tend to cause cracking if the material is not kept supple. I use wax for the leather and good vinyl polish for the vinyl surfaces. Any of the popular makes seem to work okay from my experience so I won't advertise BRAND names here. I think most of the vinyl cleaners also work for the rubber pieces too, so check the labels before you buy

and get one that will do for both materials.

I'm informed that there's a new Healey book out in publication from Velocé Publishing in the UK. Hopefully I'll get my copy in the next few weeks so I can give you a review in the next issue ready for the holidays and those dark days of winter.

Sorry about the quality of the photo on the October Flash. The print copy looked fine but something went grainy on the final print. Anyway, enjoy this month's colorful image of Jason Urban's Alfa and Mike Bartell's 100-4 at Lime Rock Park. Healey on!

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## OVERDRIVE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

By Steve Jekogian



Just like a wedding anniversary, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AHSTC and Encounter has come and gone. The AHSTC board hopes it was a good “celebration year” for you and the members and we had fun honoring the many people that have devoted so much time and talent to keeping AHSTC the “club” you want to be involved with.

As always, it is what you do or offer “today” that matters so the Club and regional presidents will continue to try different events and activities to keep “it interesting” and we are always willing to listen to new ideas from the members.

This is the last Flash for 2007 and in 2008 we hope to start off with the Flash being delivered via e-mail, or available to you on line via a link. That should help with the “speed of delivery”, a “reduction of mailing costs” and perhaps even more important now a savings of resources—paper, gas, etc. Please be patient with us as we “work through” the issues in doing this. It sounds simple but due to the size of the Flash with the photos, that we all want to see, it has to be worked out.

The holidays are right around the corner and if you did not get that shirt, coffee mug, 30th anniversary badge or poster at Encounter you wanted here is your chance. The AHSTC regalia has been taken over by two very talented members who “offered” to run it --Trish Woglom and Charlene Donovan. Ben Kenion has managed regalia for years but had to give it up as his reserve unit has been called to Iraq. Our thoughts go out to him for safe passage. Just think from a Sprite to a Humvee?

There are a number of great regalia products available from Trish ([pwoglom@comcast.net](mailto:pwoglom@comcast.net)) and Charlene ([donovansix@verizon.net](mailto:donovansix@verizon.net)) so contact them to fill your holiday AH shopping list.

And remember the items for sale look good, feel good and benefit the club.

Also there are a few 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary grill badges left that I can send you \$30.00 plus \$4.50 Shipping. Once they are gone, which will be soon, that is it, no more will be made.

[Steve.jekogian@spcorp.com](mailto:Steve.jekogian@spcorp.com).

Want something that would really make your or his day? There was an artist/illustrator at Encounter that had beautiful drawings of Healeys. His name is Robert Ciampa and Lynn purchased a custom illustration of my car for me. Robert took a picture of my Healey, and drew the most realistic picture I have ever seen, with details of the spokes, reflections, brilliant colors. It is more art work than “another picture of my car”. Check out Roberts work. [robert-a.ciampa.home.comcast.net](http://robert-a.ciampa.home.comcast.net) or 610-304-5593 email [Robert-a.ciampa@comcast.net](mailto:Robert-a.ciampa@comcast.net).



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## **PHILADELPHIA REGION**

*By Al Tocci*

Just back from Encounter '07 and what a great event. Not even a complete rainout on Friday could dampen (pun intended) the fun of the event. I imagine the rain was quite favorable for regalia sales as well. I know I parted ways with more dollars than is typical and others seemed to be spending nicely too during the Friday rain. Speaking of regalia, kudos to Trish Woglom and Char Donovan for volunteering to take over the responsibility of regalia now that Ben is passing it along.

Hopefully most of you reading this were able to experience Encounter for yourself, as it was a well run, enjoyable event. We were unfortunately unable to attend last year's Encounter due to a family commitment in Atlanta and I do believe being away for a year made us enjoy it this year even more. I don't however recommend missing a year just to appreciate it more than you might otherwise when you return. Notably missing from the Phila region this year were John and Jennifer Payne. We were anticipating their attendance and I'm sure they missed us as we did them and look forward to spending time together during next year's event.

The Phila region did well this year in the trophy tally; I don't mention this as a matter of bragging but rather to segue to the absolutely gorgeous trophies that were given out this year. To me they were but one of many tangible examples of the efforts put into this year's event. I would however be remiss not to mention a few of the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophies that accumulated at our table during the banquet – congrats to Baird and Margo on their 1<sup>st</sup> place in the car show for their beautiful BJ7, ditto to the Cosmides for that awesome Bugeye of theirs and a shout out to Mike Woglom for taking 1<sup>st</sup> place in the gymkhana for every vehicle he buckled himself into! Mike is an amazing young driver who understands vehicle handling thresholds very well. Unfortunately he's still figuring out mechanical thresholds, which is why Trish's Sprite is sitting with a snapped axle shaft at the moment!

My Sprite performed well this year having arrived at Encounter with a two-week new engine. After running my car for the last 7 years with two parts-car engines, I decided to build a 1098 over the winter. Unfortunately I didn't get a chance to put the engine into the car until just before Encounter. With all the last minute car preparation, my wife Susan has "grounded" me from all car work until a massive to-do list is completed. I can't say that I'm surprised

though as she has been incredibly tolerant of all my car time previously. It's apparent though that she means business, as she's even suggesting the reduction of vehicle inventory. I guess it's no longer cool and eclectic to have an Austin Mini body shell sharing laundry room space with the washer and dryer. And the "project vehicles" in the driveway are no longer referred to by make and model but are simply call scrap metal – OUCH! Anyway, if I get through this to-do list anytime soon, perhaps she'll reconsider her position on all that scrap metal!

September brings a bit of a car lull for me; not because there aren't events going on, as there are plenty, but because a crazy family schedule just keeps my options limited. The list of events that I missed is much more extensive than the list I attended. The missed list includes Radnor Hunt, The Zippo Grand Prix at Watkins Glen and the Urban's rally/picnic. An event that I made this year and haven't missed since its beginning is the Buckingham Concours. My wife and I are part of the volunteer committee for this show so it may be hard for me to view it objectively. This year brought another wonderful event and we could not have been blessed with better weather. Many AHSTC members showed their Healeys or stopped by to say hello and check out the displays. While John and Jennifer Payne were forced to miss Encounter, both of their Healeys were on display at Buckingham. Active Philly region regulars, Baird Foster and Mark Weinberg also had their Healeys in the show. Baird was kind enough to show his BJ7 as "display only" and judged the Healey class himself. Quality volunteer judges can be very difficult to find and Baird's efforts were greatly appreciated. With a judged show of 250 entrants, we're always seeking competent judges. If you are expert on anything from brass era cars to foreign exotics and you'd like to offer your judging services, contact me and get involved!

I have friends who attended Radnor and Watkins Glen – good reports were received on both as expected, although things got a bit wet at the Glen Saturday afternoon into Sunday morning, despite dry weather at home. I've yet to get a report on Jason and Holly Urban's Rally/Picnic. I'm sure it was quite enjoyable. Hopefully some of you were more fortunate than me and had a chance to share in the fun. Great fall driving weather is upon us so get out and enjoy! Speedy recovery wishes go out to Paul Woglom and Ray Donovan who have been a bit under the weather lately.

## NEW JERSEY

By Art Herkomer



Normally, at this time of year, I make the usual comments regarding storage of our Healeys for the winter. However, with summer-like weather continuing well into the Fall, it seems as if the cars will be driven later into the winter season. I will save my storage tips for next month. As a matter of fact, since today is one of those warm Fall days, I think I'll take a ride right now and go back to writing this in a few days.

Today, as I get back to this writing, is a similar day to the day of our October Fall tour. We had rain the day and night before the tour, a little cool in the morning, with the sun warming the air as the day went on. As hoped, we added a few additional drivers to our tour this year. I think a couple of long-time participants may have opted to head out to Hershey for the big show and flea market. We had a total of 13 cars take the two-hour ride through some very bucolic and historic areas. After completion of the first leg and pit stop, we encountered more traffic than I anticipated. During the prior six scouting trips in preparing the tour, there was not nearly as much traffic. Apparently, a football game was going to be held in the area. We had to break into that traffic via a left hand turn. It took a few extra minutes for all 13 cars to make the turn and reform the line and get back on the move. Within the hour, we arrived for lunch at Charlie Brown's in Denville. After some good food and conversation, most of us headed for home in various directions. Four cars opted to follow me for the third leg of the tour. We arrived home before dusk, and still had plenty of TV college football games to enjoy.

Unfortunately because of another meeting, I had to miss the October meeting, which was held at Rich and Barbara Ippoliti's home on the 23rd. I sure didn't miss having to drive to their home for an hour, but I was sorry to miss out on Barbara's good treats. I'm sure Rich has already filled you in on that meeting in his E-Flash.

The holidays are upon us, and Thanksgiving is a little earlier this year. Thanksgiving is one of

my favorite holidays, since I get to enjoy all the great football games of the day. Wishing you all have very happy and healthy holidays.



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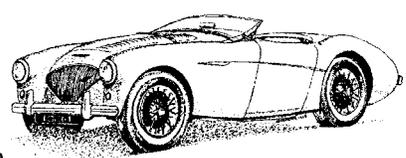
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## **BRANDYWINE**

*By Ernie Leser*



A dozen Brandywine members enjoyed the region's picnic on Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Leser's residence. The Oktoberfest beer and brats were a hit along with numerous other goodies. The Leser's reviewed their recent trip to Europe and their visit to the opening of the Oktoberfest in Munich. That was quite an adventure! A pleasant surprise was the attendance of Clint and Sue Hatton's 11 month old grandson Jason. He immediately was signed up as our newest member.

Three blue BJ8's (Dave Ehret, Pete Roberts, Ernie Leser), a "Diamond in the Rough" 3000 (Chuck Ott), an E-type Jaguar (Nigel Smart), and a Mini Cooper S (Steve Garrett) made for a wonderful assortment of mechanicals to look over. The picnic also served as a send-off for the Hattons who left for Mexico shortly thereafter. They expect to return in May. The accompanying photos will attest to the good time had by all.

Get out and enjoy the warm fall weather and soak in the beautiful foliage in your Healey before the cold nasties hit! Its amazing to see the number of classic cars on the road coming and going to a variety of shows at this time of year.

Our upcoming events are as follows:

**Elections:** Nov.15<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm, Matilda's Restaurant, Newark, Delaware.

**Christmas Party:** Saturday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 6 pm. Location TBD. See E-Flash for details.

**Events Planning for 2008:** Thursday, Jan.17<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm, Matilda's, Newark, Delaware.

*Brandywine region's picnic on Saturday, October 6th at the Leser's residence.*





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## LONG ISLAND

By Paul Parfrey



The Seaside Spectacular Car Show at Lido Beach was the last weekend of Sept. Scott Rinder won second prize in the popular vote.

Oct. 13 was the date for the ENYMGA Club gymkhana at Floyd Bennett Field. LI members Bob Shaffsick, Bob Maichin, and Jim Elliot participated, as did Steve Tjepkema for the first time. My daughter, Eileen, bested my time as I couldn't find the course. Neil Barrella dropped by for a short time. Our friends, Lou Molinaro and Brian Smith, also attended. Brian had the fastest time of our group, helped by the fact that he's yet to see his 29th birthday. Steve and I competed to see which one of us could throw the most soot on the other's car with our exhaust. Steve won as big Healeys always seem to hold dirty water in the bottom of the upturned tailpipes. Thanks to ENYMGA Club President Jon Rubel for an enjoyable day and an in-depth update on HARP's Winnie Mae replica.

The regalia room at Encounter had a stack of old Flash issues. While perusing December 1992's issue, I noticed Allen Rosenberg had a \$600 Sprite for sale while the most expensive 3000 for sale was just under \$30,000.

What really grabbed my attention was the following:

The November meeting of the LI region was held on the 20th at John and Carol Hodgman's. When I arrived at about 8:15 the driveway was already full thus ensuring a turnout higher than I could count on my two hands. This in itself should have made me suspicious...

A tape of Donald Healey's 1956 assault on Bonneville was playing as I found a seat in the den. Everyone was engaged in animated conversation, basking in the warm glow of a crackling fire. I thought to myself this is one of the most successful meetings in a long while.

The bubble burst when Fred announced the night's business was the election of officers. All of a sudden I had this feeling that I should leave. Problem was my Healey was blocked by later arrivals. (Sometimes tardiness pays.) The reason for the high turnout became perfectly clear. I was nominated for the office of president and by unanimous vote sent up the river. The election completed, I took myself out to the dining room to lick my wounds. A double helping of Carol's magnificent carrot cake put me right.

Anyone up for a November meeting?

*ENYMGA Gymkhana October 13th, 2007.*



## **LEHIGH VALLEY**

*By Jerry Cropp*



And now, dear readers, listen to this tale of Faustian proportions, wherein your editor walked to the edge of the shadows but, thanks to last minute restoration of his senses, vowed never be tempted by the Dark

Side again.

Over the past few years, I've had some trouble with my right leg falling asleep when I drive the Healey. I've had tests of my circulation and they turned out fine. I had a brain scan and, beyond finding a lot of cobwebs, that was fine, too. This didn't happen all the time, but often enough to cause concern. After all, no one likes to be driving along at 55 MPH (well, maybe a bit faster) and suddenly realize there isn't any feeling in your foot. Try finding the brake pedal with that!

As noted, this doesn't happen all the time. As a matter of fact, I drove to Conclave in Vermont in June with no problem. But in last month's Berks Byways tour, I had to stop twice, get out of the car and walk around to restore circulation.

I started thinking, why am I keeping this car? There's the garage, there's the insurance and most years, if I drive 500 miles, that's a lot. And then there's the market for Healeys. I sit enraptured watching Barrett-Jackson as a '53 Chevie goes for \$1 million; Here's a BJ8, \$110K, thank you very much. And here I am, sitting with the best looking and driving Healey on the East Coast and I'm paying rent.

So I advertise in the Reading paper and sit back and wait for the phone to ring. Not a chance. The first call I get is from Roanoke, VA. No, they don't want to buy the car, they want to help me sell. For a fee, of course (reasonable fee, but a fee nonetheless.) The next call I get is from a local who says he doesn't want to buy my car, he wants to sell it for me. He sells cars on the Internet. And, for a modest fee, he'll advertise my car. Oh, and he's also collect a fee from the buyer. Strike two.

Finally, I get a call from a legitimate buyer. He already has Jaguars and MG's and loves British cars. He is also 78 years old, still rides his motorcycle and fly's his airplane ( I was tempted

to ask if it was a Spitfire.) He's not at all scared off by the price and we make arrangements to meet. He'll bring his British friend who is a mechanic to look the car over. A date and time is set.

Almost immediately I go into a funk. Suppose he likes the car and buys it? Of course he'll like the car, what's not to like? Then you won't, for the first time in 45 years, have a Healey.

Then the Voice from the Dark Side: But think of the big bucks? What about the big bucks? Paris, Rome, Munich, they are all within your reach! Think of the big bucks! (There won't be many of them in Europe, thanks to the strong Euro.)

The day and time are approaching. The dilemma is growing. The Voice is more persuading. The car is getting cleaner and more beautiful by the minute. What to do, what to do.

I wake. It is still black outside. I have fewer than 5 hours. I cannot do it. I cannot sell my car for a bowl of porridge. (Green porridge, but what the hell.) I have to call my potential buyer and tell him I changed my mind.

He's great. "I know just how you feel. I sold my favorite Jaguar several years back and I still regret it."

Whew! What a close call!

Remember the Christmas party, December 1 at the home of Tom Mantz and Debbie Lentz. See you there.

Ciao (or maybe I should say, Cherrio!)

## **MEMBERSHIP**

*By Rick Brodeur*



Let's welcome a new member this month

### **Harrisburg**

Kenneth & Nancy Schaffer  
Hampstead, MD  
'65 BJ8

Our member lists are available to any member just for the asking. Each Region President

has a copy that can be distributed, and I will send out a copy to any member who requests one. I prefer to send them out via email, but if that's not available to you just call or email me and I'll send out a paper copy.

My email address for the Club is membership@austin-healey-stc.org. If you have any questions about your membership or didn't receive your Flash, please contact me. Contacting me is the quickest way to solve a membership or mailing problem. My phone number and email address are on the inside front page and also on our web site.

## **WANTED**

**For Sprite Mk II factory hardtop.** "Big" side screens to fit Midget Mk. 1 hardtop #AHA6301,6302,6303 & 6323. Need bolt at windscreen AHA6354, bush AHA6237 and nut AHA6238. Mike Haran email: mharan@optonline.net.

**Austin Healey "nut"** seeking pass, side door check nut (reverse thread), door shut finisher set (used condition), and top frame for late BN4. contact Shawn Miller at stmiller96@hotmail.com.

**100-6 OR 3000 Chassis** to convert to Small Block Chevrolet. Do not need AH drivetrain. No rust buckets please. Jim Nicholas 570-342-7683 #128 or dgnicholasjbn@epix.net.

**Working silver faced fuel gauge** for 1959 Austin Healey. Contact Richard Ippoliti 908-832-2311 or ippoliti@nac.net.

**Part for 1967 BJ8 steering box.** Moss calls it a Rocker Shaft part #667-685 and is not available. Rob Vollers 908-507-8273.

**1962 3000 spare bonnets** for design study; need several; will consider from stock to louvered or even alloy. Jim Elliott 718-808-2668 or jelliott2@nyc.rr.com. Please send photos & price.

I am looking for the **correct jack for a 1967 Austin Healey 3000 BJ8.** Dave Wyher 215-646-7729 or dwyher@comcast.net.

**Good square-bodied Sprite**—David Booker, 516-662-8766 or email tncarnut1@yahoo.com.

## **FOR SALE**

**1962 AUSTIN-HEALEY 3000 BJ 7;** Roll up windows, all new hydraulics, good top/interior, great blue clear coat paint. Strong BJ 8 engine and tranny...well cared for, minimal rust. Great driver and still turns heads. \$24K OBO 973-601-1878 or gordon\_ruhf@yahoo.com.

**Steering column and box for Austin Healey 100,** \$250.00; **exhaust pipe for Austin Healey 100** (new), \$30.00; Bob Wade 908-475-3131 or rwade@nac.net.

**New AM-FM mono radio** + or—ground; manual tuning; 2 shaft; black, very basic. \$60 + shipping.

**Universal mounting pod;** black plastic; fits bottom of heater on pre-BJ-8 6 cylinder Healeys. \$20 + shipping. Bob Pense 732-469-6685 or pensenwood@aol.com.

**1960 BT7—Mark I** (four seater) by Jack White. Phone: 703-652-1312 or email at jwhite@medmarc.com. Asking \$32,000 for this excellent driver and rust-free car with older but unblemished paint.

**2 Bumper Bars** for **106** and **3000**, new. Moss wrappings still one piece, now list at \$150 each. \$250 for the pair; **106** and **3000 Moss muffler**, new—dual in and out, list new at \$95, this one for \$70; **106** and **3000 Moss dual steel tail pipe**, new—not available in catalog, this one \$140; **106** pair disc wheel **rear brake drums**—used \$30, disc wheel **front hubs** complete \$200; **center shift OD trans 3** on hand, ask about \$\$\$; Pick up preferred, shipping will add boxing and shipping charges. Several decades of other part also, E-mail your needs, I am trying to clean house, a few part for 104, mostly 3000, none for roll up's none for Elliotts either. Wball@ptd.net.

**1961 Austin Healey Bug-Eye Sprite**, completely restored; new silver paint, new top and side curtains and tonneau cover, (hard top available), new tires, 1275cc engine, ribbed transmission, 3.9 rear,



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I have a **62 Sprite**. Last time on the road was 1977 still has inspection sticker, seems like original exhaust system & tires, mileage says 65,000. Car is complete, has tool kit, sliding plexiglass windows, spare tire, removable fiberglass roof, etc. Some new parts. Must sell asking \$3500 or best offer. I have all paperwork, books, owners manual. Call anytime 631-813-7139 car needs restoration but not a rot box. Has normal rust out. Car was garaged. Thank you very much.

**1965 Austin Healey (BJ8 phase 2)** Concours Registry with less than 50 miles since Professional Ground-Up Restoration British Racing Green Body Panels and Paint received 159 out of 160 points and engine 99 out of 100 at AHST Concours judging. Total of 941 out of possible 1000 points. Restoration matches Production Record Trace Certificate Number 2000/4593 issued by British Motor Industry Heritage Trust.

Restoration included professional machine shop rebuild of engine with all new bearings, pistons, oil pump, valve seats for unleaded fuel, lifters, etc. Essentially a new engine in original block. New suspension, shocks, 60 spoke Hendrix wire wheels, Michelin XZX radials, stainless steel exhaust system, silicone brake system, complete new black Interior and top and more. Original BMC radio included.

Receipts for parts and professional labor total more than the \$59,500 asking price. You are encouraged to preview the car or have a third party to do so. It is garaged in Chatham, NJ Call me (Bob) at 973 635-6149.

Anyone interested in a complete but very rough **BN4**? All parts even side curtains. John Chesebrough.

**1963 Austin Healey BJ7.** Engine compartment & interior are as clean as body. Fresh fluids, runs great! \$23,500 or Best Offer. Mathew Goldenberg 215-219-9679.

New member Scott Rinder has **4 new Dayton Chrome 72 spoke wheels** with Firestone 165/5 radials with 75 miles—\$950. 516-491-2924 or email [scottaz11@aol.com](mailto:scottaz11@aol.com)

After 20 years of providing parts for Sprite and Midget owners. **Buckingham British Parts Centre inventory will be closed out.** The entire inventory is available. In the mean time we are offering a **20%** discount on in stock items. Non stock items will still be accessed and at **10%** be-

low Moss retail. Contact us at 215-361-7555.

**67 Austin Healey BJ8**, Ivory w/black interior. High quality restoration in 1997. Pristine condition. All maintenance and upgrade done by Kenny Beck since 2001. \$47,900.00. Phone number: 610-799-3249.

**1966 Healey Blue, BJ-8.** I am the 2nd owner and it has about 40,000 original miles on it. Jim Damico.

#### ENCOUNTER PHOTOS FOR SALE:

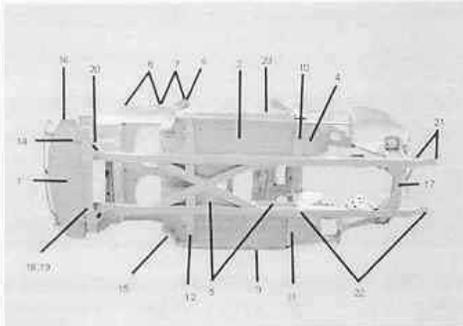
Mark Goodman was all over Encounter 30 with his camera. Mark part of the Encounter team volunteered to capture all the fun, excitement, and friendship that is Encounter. Mark just sent me a CD and most of the pictures in this Flash he took and are on the CD.

Over 400 pictures I think and he is offering the CD to you for just \$10.00 to cover shipping.

**Mark Goodman**  
**21 Lakeview Ave.**  
**West Cortland Manor NY 10567-6415**  
**[mkgoodman@att.net](mailto:mkgoodman@att.net)**

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The October meeting drew 15 people, including Don Zielke's buddy here on his annual pilgrimage to the East Coast. President "you can get him out of the office, but you can't get the office out of Dave" had a printed agenda and in good organizational protocol, followed same covering the following: Reports on the 23 September Meeting of the Marques at Allenberry, PA and the Hershey AACA Fall Meet. That was followed by a review of the regions upcoming events, the first of which (the 21 Oct. Fall Tour) is covered below. The Treasurer reported the regional rebate of club dues received from the corporate treasurer and our current balance which is comfortably sufficient for our operations. The 50/50 drill was exercised to help maintain our hard earned solvency. It's good to not be too broke going into the year we host Encounter. Next up was that dreaded annual aggravation, the condemnation of officers for next year (Once elected you are condemned to serve until death). With adroit back room maneuvers, Dave managed to coerce both himself and the rest of this notorious band of ne'er-do-wells to continue posing as officers for another year. I wouldn't say that managing to avoid derailing our train got us railroaded for another year, but we did get a congratulatory note from Norfolk Southern!

Bob Preston gave us an update on Encounter 08 progress. The dates (6-10 August 08), room rate (\$90 includes a fridge and microwave in each room), have been nailed down. Detailed planning meetings will start in January on the 2nd. Tuesday of each month at our regular meeting place. There were a lot more details discussed, but I'll cover only two for now. The first is the mutual support between AHSTC's Encounter and Sprite Jubilee for 2008. Both will use the same venue with Sprite Jubilee being held in May and Encounter in August. We will have a presence at the Jubilee and both will have tents close to each other at the Carlisle Import Show. The second was a presentation by Joe Spear of a new idea to augment Encounter 08. I don't know

if it will bring Joe fame or fortune (Joe got the OK to pursue his Encounter idea) but as chronicled in the tour report below, he managed to weave himself into club legend anyway a week later.

The long awaited Perry County Covered Bridge Fall Tour started at our time honored rendezvous point (a combined convenience store, gas station & McDonald's franchise) just off I83 in Northern York County. Our eleven (11) vehicle caravan set out in virtually perfect weather heading North via a network of back roads that wound thru pristine country side bathed in fall colors and brilliant sunshine. Not long into our trek those of us in the lead element noticed that more than half the caravan had vanished from our rear view mirrors. After a long catch up wait, a scout was dispatched to the rear to recon the problem. More waiting until our scout returned with the news the Joe & Barb Spear's immaculate TF had stalled out. Charlie Baldwin, Rick Moses and who knows who else had formed up an ad-hoc committee to help Joe resolve his problem, but the gremlins still had them stumped. More waiting as mother nature silently started sending out subtle bladder overload impulses to the waitees. Just then the trailing element reappeared after hot wiring Joe's ignition switch proving once again the old sports car adage - Gorgeous and reliable aren't synonymous! The restart took us up into Perry County, home of 14 covered bridges that have been meticulously maintained to the extent that even major repairs approaching a rebuild have been done in lieu of replacement. During several stops at these fine bridges a strange phenomenon was observed. While some would photograph the structure others would sneak off into the woods - first the boys and later the girls. Communing with nature looked more like the behavior of the tree hugging society than a madcap sports car bunch. More great roads and several more bridges later, it was time to motor on to the Dear Lodge outside Boiling Springs for refueling of the participants - their gas tanks were ok but their stomachs were empty. On the way there the tour organizers raced ahead to prepare the restaurant for our late arrival leaving Joe "Good Luck" Spear in the lead. One slight glitch in the direc-

tions and Joe had to do a loop around to get back on track that had us looking like a fairground figure 8 race in the middle of some small town with no place to pull over and regroup. I ended up as lead car on the main drag with other non tour cars honking at me, so leader responsibility fell to me who's path finding skills are a legend in their own right. My ever competent partner in crime/navigator met the challenge and we all ended up at our destination - some because they followed us, others because they didn't! The group, after satiating their appetites, parted ways and in spite of the fun I had in writing this, really had a good time on a perfect day, in a tour layout that mirrored a fine effort by our tour director, Liz Brockman who spent a lot of time on this one.

We've had our last meeting and driving event of the year and now look forward to those 2 close out extravaganzas that mark our holiday season. The banquet at the 08 Encounter site and Gorge-a-mania Progressive Dinner are the 'don't miss' drills left. We hope you can make both and that the Holidays that follow bring an abundance of

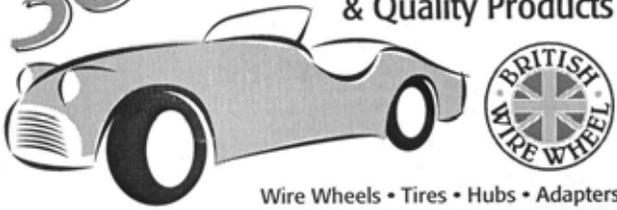
peace and good will to you exemplary keepers of the Healey legend.

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